

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses all basic aspects related to the research. The discussion covers research background, research problems, research objectives, scope and limitation, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

As one of international language in the world, English is really needed in almost everything, for examples are finding a job, educational field, medical, and in social life. Nowadays, many parents decided to let their children learning language since they were a kid. Otherwise, most of the parents and also some educators' anxious about teaching English to young learners (Sabilah, 2004, p. 1) which might bring educational risk. It means that teaching English to young learner is challenging.

Cameron (2001, p. 1) stated that teaching English to young learner is really different with teaching English to adolescents. Young learners are often enthusiastic and prefer to amaze their teacher rather than theirs friends. Whether they understand or not with the material that being taught by the teacher, they want to involve in every activity in the class. On the other hand, children are easy to lose their interest and motivation in learning something that quite difficult for them.

Environment is one of important thing for children to learn something. Sabilah (2004, p. 1) stated that the children who learn a new language must be conditioned to interact with rich language environment.

English for Young Learners (EYL) is one of three majors in elective courses program which offered by English Language Education Department at University

of Muhammadiyah Malang. The teachers of EYL program are students of English Language Education Department who are still in their seventh semester. Before the students perform the teaching process, in the sixth semesters the students got a theory and knowledge about how to teach young learners.

Some experts explained the definition of perception. Goldstein (2010, p. 5) stated that perception is the result of “behind the scene” process which does not just happen by itself. Moreover, Ward, Grinstein, & Keim (2010, p. 73) said that perception is a process of recognizing, organizing, and interpreting sensory information. It has a deal with generating signals from environment that the human get through their five human sense; sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. Irwanto (2002, p. 71) described perception is the process of the acceptance of a stimulus until it can be realized and understood. The process of the acceptance of a stimulus is called sensation, which requires an interpretation. As a conclusion, perception is the process of interpreting information that people gets through the five human senses to make them understand their environment.

Perception is important in life. It can lead to understanding human behavior and determine the needs of various people because their need influence their perception. Therefore, perception can help human understanding their needs, for example is parent’s perception about their children education. It means that parent can determine in which school that their children will be study or should their children join another learning institutions.

The previous research of perception was conducted by Ephias, Newman, & Dzirkure (2015). Their research was focused on parents’ and teachers’ perception

on learning language in early childhood. This research was taken place in Norton district in Zimbabwe which their mother tongue is not English, but Shona and Ndebele. The research used thirty teachers, fifty parents, and one curriculum development expert to be interviewed as the participant; it was found that mostly parents agree if the teacher were using English in teaching and learning process in the class.

Another research was conducted by Shang, Ingebritson, & Tseng (2005) who interviewed eleven participants from four bilingual kindergartens in Taiwan about parental perceptions toward English learning in bilingual kindergarten. Their research found that parents agree for letting their children learning English in such a young age because it can be affected in their children competitiveness in future job market which is English mostly used.

Within the background that already explained before, the researcher is interested in conducting a research about the parent's perception on EYL because this motion was rarely conducted by the previous research's which focused on the parents' perception on different area.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of study above, this research formulates a research question "What is the parent's perception on EYL program in ELED at UMM?"

1.3 Research Objective

To answer the research question, the researcher states the purpose of the research is to know the parent's perception about EYL class in ELED at UMM.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

In completing this research, the researcher focused on the parent's perception on EYL program in academic year 2017/2018. The limitation of this study is using one instrument only, which is questionnaire.

1.5 Research Significance

This research is expected to be beneficial English Language Education Department and also the students' teacher who teach in the EYL program. This research might be as an evaluation of EYL program to make the program getting better in the next period. For the students' teacher, this research expected to be helpful for them for doing the preparation before doing the teaching process. This also can help them to make new policy about how to attract the parents to let their children joined the EYL program. The researcher hope that this research can help the students' teacher to know about what the student parents thinks about their children joined the EYL program, and also to build communication between students teacher and student parent.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. *English for Young Learners*; is the children who start at early age, 6 to 12 years old, of their life to learn English (Wahyuni, 2017). It means that EYL is English given to student at early ages.
2. *Perception*; is a process of recognizing, organizing, and interpreting sensory information (Ward et al. 2010). It means that perception is the process of interprets information that people get through the five human sense to make them understand their environment.

